Authorities to consider re: "slow roll" convoys or similar events

(Updated as of 2020-Feb-21)

The purpose of this document is to provide Alberta RCMP members with a summary of authorities, points to consider, and best practices when dealing with "slow roll" convoys or similar events.

***Note: Though authorities under the Emergencies Act have been approved, the RCMP response will not be utilizing these authorities at this time. Only existing laws and policies will be utilized, as necessary and appropriate, and in compliance with the direction provided in any Operational Plan relevant to your area.

Overall context:

- No RCMP actions are intended to disrupt or discourage any person's right to legally protest.
- Any use of enforcement or warnings is focused solely on safety, and our duty to prevent or stop the commission of offences, when applicable and when possible.
- **The most likely context for consideration of these authorities will be engaging with participants at convoy "muster points", or during the actual "slow roll" events, if any persons/vehicles take unsafe or unlawful actions.**
- **This includes engaging at "muster points" with drivers of potentially problematic loads or vehicles, even if there is not a specific offence currently being committed. (e.g. Why are they hauling a tractor on a flatbed, or horses in a trailer, during a slow roll convoy or to a demonstration site?)**
    - In these cases, there may not be a specific offence to enforce, but engaging in conversation with the registered owner to understand their intent with such items, may be appropriate. Consider educating the individual on the TSA offence and seizure implications, and also potential bylaw offences, should they decide to offload or use those items while participating in the convoy or demonstration.
    - This best practice has led to potentially problematic vehicles being left voluntarily at the muster point, and not brought into a convoy or demonstration location.

Overall enforcement steps and considerations:

1. Unless immediate harm to a person(s) will occur, enforcement actions will not be carried out until authorized by your on-site commander or equivalent.
2. The anticipated first enforcement actions will be measured and proportionate and could include violation tickets under the appropriate legislation.

3. If the protester continues to refuse to comply, enforcement actions MAY then move to arrest under appropriate legislation and seizure/towing of the offending vehicle(s).

Authorities to Consider:

Traffics Safety Act:
Sec 2(1)(c) Rules of the Road Regulations - Driving at a slow rate of speed/impede traffic
Sec 61 Rules of the Road Regulations - Fail to obey directions of police officer
Sec 166(2) relating to the requirement that drivers of motor vehicles stop when so requested by a peace officer who is readily identifiable as a peace officer

Provincial Legislation Authorities:
Section 2 Critical Infrastructure Defence Act - lists prohibited activities
Section 73(1) Public Health Act – Breaching a public health order
Section 2(1) Trespass to Premises Act

Criminal Code:
Section 30CC Preventing a breach of the peace, Section 31CC Breach of Peace
Section 63–69CC Unlawful assemblies and riots; includes wearing a mask or disguise during an unlawful assembly
Section 351(2)CC Wearing a mask or disguise, with intent to commit an indictable offence
Section 423(1)(c)CC Intimidation - persistent following
Section 423(1)(g)CC Intimidation - blocks or obstructs a highway.
Section 495 Arrest without warrant